

**ALTHOFF CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 6, 2024) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Dierre Hill** of **Althoff Catholic High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year**. Hill is the first Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Althoff Catholic High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Hill as Illinois' best high school football player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fl.), Peyton Manning (1993-94, Isidore Newman School, La.) and DJ Lagway (2023-24, Willis High School, Texas).

The state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot, 183-pound senior running back led the Crusaders to a 14-0 record and the Class 1A state championship this past season. Hill rushed for 2,588 yards and 40 touchdowns on 155 carries, averaging 16.7 yards per rush. A three-time Class 1A First Team All-State selection, he compiled 436 yards and six TDs on the ground, while also catching a TD pass in Althoff’s 57-14 win over Lena-Winslow High School in the state final. For the season, he caught six TD passes and returned both a kickoff and punt for scores.

Hill has volunteered locally as a youth football and basketball camp counselor, and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. “Dierre is one of the elite athletes in the area, state and country,” said Michael Harrison, head coach of Belleville East High School. “What makes him truly special is his unique combination of size, speed, strength and agility. He plays at a speed that is faster than the other fast guys on the field. There’s nothing he can’t do.”

Hill has maintained a weighted 3.05 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he had made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at the University of Oregon next fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field – and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Hill joins recent Gatorade Illinois Football Players of the Year Kaden Feagin (2022-23, Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School), Hank Beatty (2021-22, Rochester High School) and Athan Kaliakmanis (2020-21, Antioch Community High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.